



Classic

CLASSIC
STAR WARS
20

\$3.50 US
\$4.75 CAN

C L A S S I C

STAR WARS

SPECIAL
48
PAGE
FINAL
ISSUE!



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Classic Star Wars #20, June 1994.
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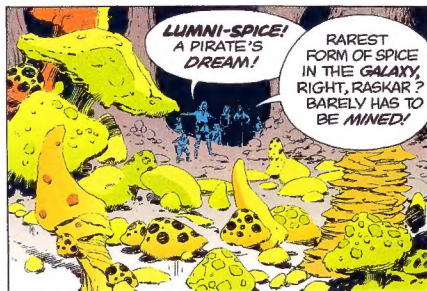
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LUKE, YOU PICKED UP ON THE *FALCON*'S SCANNERS THAT THIS STUFF WAS IN HERE?



"COULDN'T BELIEVE OUR LUCK, HAN! A TREASURE...RIGHT WHEN WE NEEDED IT!"

KID, I WISH YOU'D TOLD ME! IF THIS IS LUCK... IT'S ALL BAD!



THE REBELS PAID YOU OFF IN LUMNI-SPICE, MY DEAR SOLO? YOU MUST HAVE DONE THEM A MONUMENTAL SERVICE!

I'M A HANDY GUY, RASKAR.



AND YOU SET IT GROWING IN THIS OUT-OF-THE-WAY CAVERN ON HOTH TO INCREASE YOUR FORTUNE?

THAT'S ME... GREEDY, RIGHT?



HAN, I DON'T SEE WHY FINDING THIS STUFF IS BAD LUCK!

KID... I'M PRAYIN' NONE OF US SEE IT!



WHAT IS IT ABOUT LUMNI-SPICE? I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

COMIN' FROM A FARM WORLD, YOU COULDN'T, LUKE. LET'S GET CHEWIE AND I'LL--NO! TOO LATE!

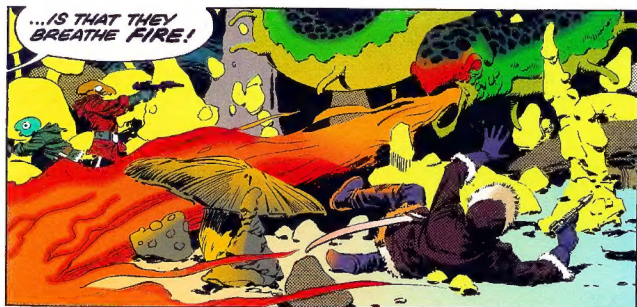


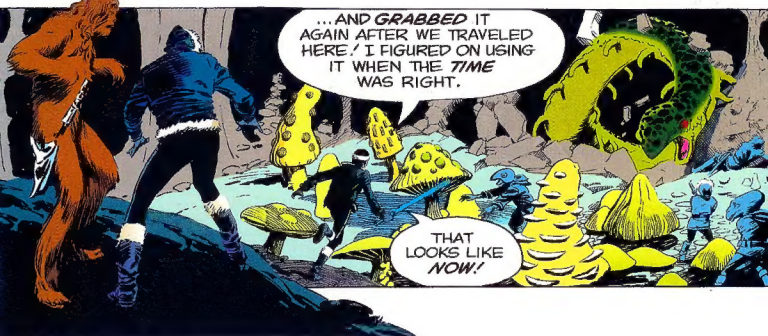
THE THING THAT MAKES LUMNI-SPICE SO RARE--TO SAY NOTHIN' OF DIFFICULT TO HARVEST--IS THAT IT'S THE FAVORITE FOOD FOR **DRAGON-SLUGS**, LIKE! ALMOST **NOBODY** LIVES TO HARVEST IT!

HAN, WHEN I SPOTTED THE **SPICE CACHE** ON THE **FALCON'S** SCANNERS...I DIDN'T **KNOW!**

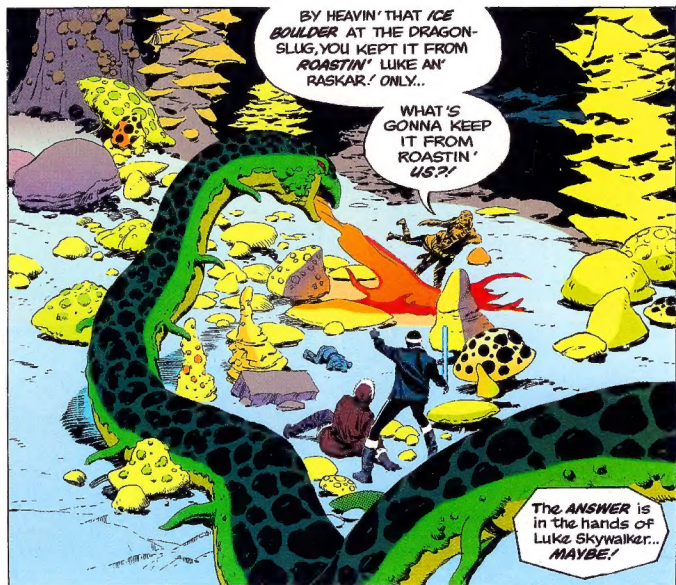
Raskar's hardbitten pirates react quickly, but their blaster fire has small effect...

...except for the reverberations **SHAKING** the cavern ceiling!









...and strikes there *AGAIN* and *AGAIN*!

VAAROWWWWRRKK!

RIGHT,
CHEWIE! IT'S
HURT OR IT
WOULDN'T BE
REARIN' UP LIKE
THAT! BUT EVEN
IF IT'S *DYIN'*...
IT'LL *CRUSH* 'EM
WHEN IT
FALLS!

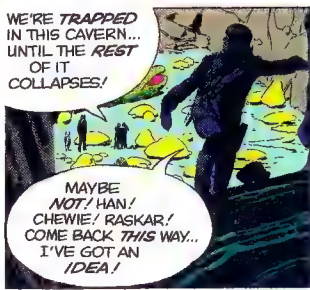
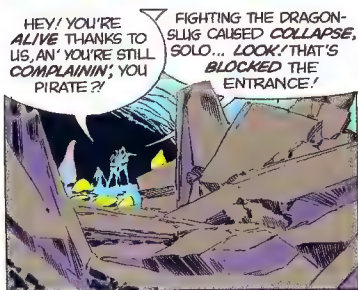
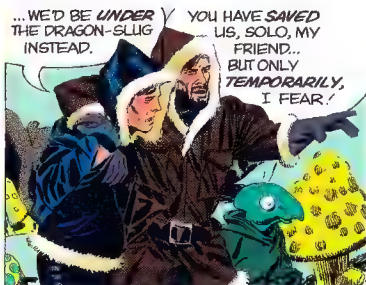
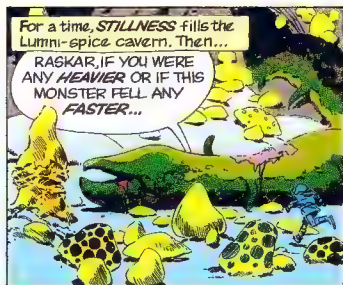
WITH SOMETHIN' *THAT*
BIG... EVEN THE
DEATH THROES CAN
KILL YA!

And the creature topples...
TOWARD Luke and Raskar!

As the falling carcass of the dragon-
slug threatens to *CRUSH*
Luke and Raskar...

MOVE, CHEWIE... IT'S
GONNA BE CLOSE!

Perhaps... *TOO* close! /



AH! YOU SAVED ME, MY
PIRATES SAVED YOU!
WE'RE EVEN, SOLO...
FRIENDS AGAIN!

AND THE REBEL
BASE HERE ON
HOTH IS STILL
A SECRET!

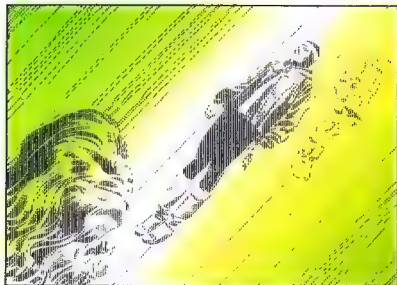
NO INTERFERENCE OUT HERE...
YOUR SHIP'S RECEIVING US,
RASKAR!

MY
GRATITUDE
LEADS ME TO
ABANDON ALL
NOTION OF TRADING
YOU FOR JABBA THE
HUTT'S REWARD!

GRATITUDE?!
YOU'VE COLLECTED
A FORTUNE
IN LUMNI-SPICE,
YOU
PIRATE!

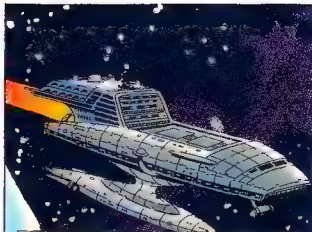
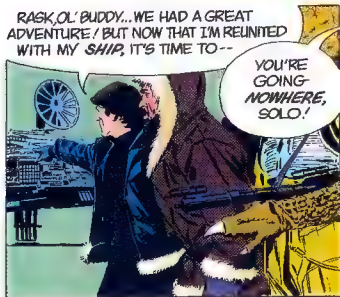
SOLO, I
DESERVE
OPERATING
EXPENSES!
THIS HUGE SHIP...
ITS TRACTOR
BEAM...

"TELL 'EM TO BE GENTLE
PICKIN' UP THE *MILLENNIUM
FALCON*, LUKE... THEY CAN
AFFORD IT..."



RASK, OL' BUDDY... WE HAD A GREAT ADVENTURE / BUT NOW THAT I'M REUNITED WITH MY *SHIP*, IT'S TIME TO--

YOU'RE GOING NOWHERE, SOLO!

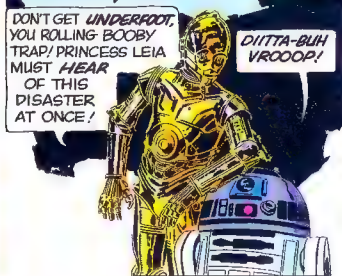


"WITH ALL THE *LUMNI-SPICE* THIS PIRATE'S TAKIN' AWAY... IT'S GONNA BE THE BEST-PAID TOW JOB IN THE HISTORY OF THE GALAXY!"

Rebel headquarters on Hoth...

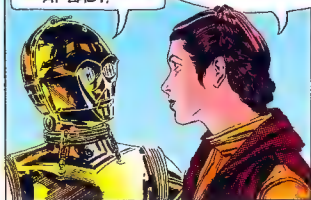
DON'T GET *UNDERFOOT*, YOU ROLLING BOOBY TRAP! PRINCESS LEIA MUST *HEAR* OF THIS DISASTER AT ONCE!

DIITTA-BUH VROOP!



SCANNERS INDICATE THAT UNIDENTIFIED SHIP IS *LEAVING* THIS SYSTEM AT LAST!

THEN HAN AND LUKE WERE *SUCCESSFUL* KEEPING THIS BASE *SECRET*! WHAT'S THE *DISASTER*, THREEPIO?



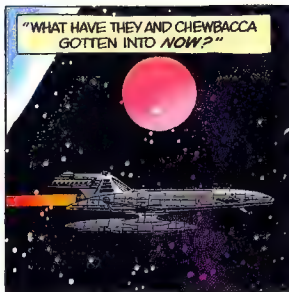
YOUR HIGHNESS... MASTER LUKE, CAPTAIN SOLO, AND CHEWBACCA ARE APPARENTLY STILL *ON BOARD*!



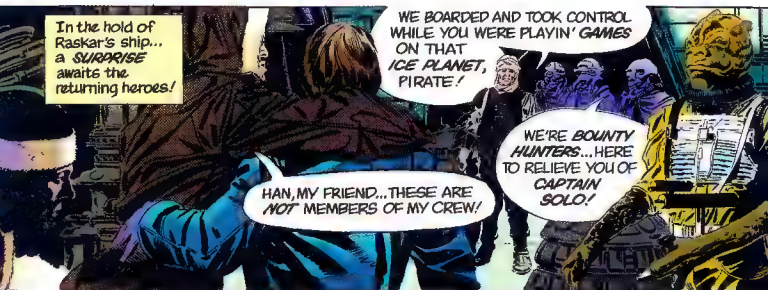
WE WANTED THAT SHIP *GONE* BEFORE THIS NEW BASE WAS *DISCOVERED*, THREEPIO... I DIDN'T DREAM THAT WOULD REQUIRE HAN AND LUKE GOING *WITH* IT!



"WHAT HAVE THEY AND CHEWBACCA GOTTEN INTO *NOW*?"



In the hold of Raskar's ship... a *SURPRISE* awaits the returning heroes!

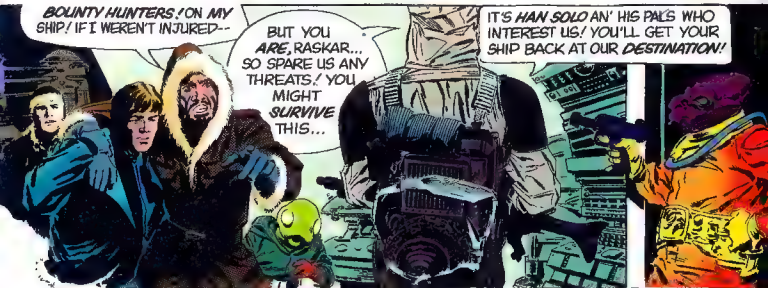


WE BOARDED AND TOOK CONTROL WHILE YOU WERE PLAYIN' *GAMES* ON THAT *ICE PLANET*, PIRATE!

HAN, MY FRIEND... THESE ARE *NOT* MEMBERS OF MY CREW!

WE'RE *BOUNTY HUNTERS*... HERE TO RELIEVE YOU OF *CAPTAIN SOLO*!

BOUNTY HUNTERS! ON MY SHIP! IF I WEREN'T INJURED--



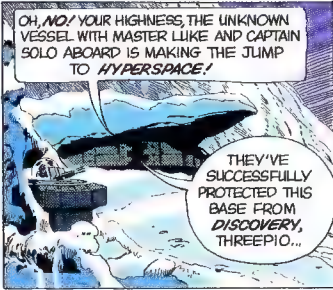
BUT YOU *ARE*, RASKAR... SO SPARE US ANY THREATS! YOU MIGHT *SURVIVE* THIS...

IT'S *HAN SOLO* AN' HIS PALS WHO INTEREST US! YOU'LL GET YOUR SHIP BACK AT OUR *DESTINATION*!



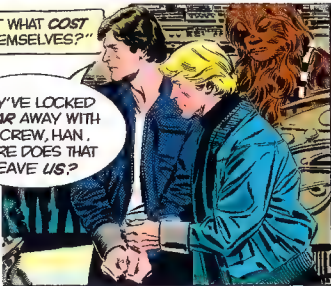
YOU'RE
TAKING US
TO **JABBA
THE
HUTT?**

THAT
WILL BE
DECIDED BY
THE **ORGANIZER**
OF THIS HUNTING
EXPEDITION, SOLO...
BOBA FETT!



OH, **NO!** YOUR HIGHNESS, THE UNKNOWN
VESSEL WITH MASTER LUKE AND CAPTAIN
SOLO ABOARD IS MAKING THE JUMP
TO **HYPERSPACE!**

THEY'VE
SUCCESSFULLY
PROTECTED THIS
BASE FROM
DISCOVERY,
THREEPIO...



"...BUT AT WHAT **COST**
TO THEMSELVES?"

THEY'VE LOCKED
RASKAR AWAY WITH
HIS CREW, HAN.
WHERE DOES THAT
LEAVE **US?**



WHO KNOWS, WITH A BUNCH OF
STRANGE **BOUNTY HUNTERS**, LUKE?

YOU HAVEN'T
LOOKED **CLOSELY,**
SOLO... WE'RE NOT
ALL STRANGERS!



LET ME
STEP INTO THE
LIGHT, SOLO... YOU'LL
SEE THERE'S **ONE**
BOUNTY HUNTER
HERE THAT
YOU **KNOW!**





EASY,
SKORR! THIS
IS BOBA FETT'S
OPERATION! HE
WANTS SOLO
BROUGHT TO HIM
ON ORD MANTELL...
UNDAMAGED!

I AGREED
TO BRING HIM
ALIVE... ANYTHING
ELSE IS
BONUS!

BOSSK, GET
THE PRISONERS
OUT OF HERE!

SKORR, LET *REVENGE*
COME BEFORE YOUR
AGREEMENT WITH
BOBA FETT AND THE
REST OF US...

...THERE WON'T
BE *ANYWHERE* IN
THIS GALAXY YOU
CAN HIDE!

I'VE
BEEN A
BOUNTY
HUNTER LONG
ENOUGH TO
KNOW THAT,
ZUCKASS...

MY TEMPER IS UNDER *CONTROL* NOW. AND
WHAT'S WAITING FOR SOLO AND HIS FRIENDS
AFTER WE REACH
ORD MANTELL...
SHOULD BE
VENGEANCE
ENOUGH!

THOSE IMPERIALS MADE
ME *SUFFER* IN THE SPICE
MINES OF KESSEL,
ZUCKASS... AND IT'S
SOLO'S FAULT!

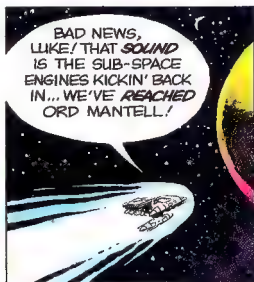
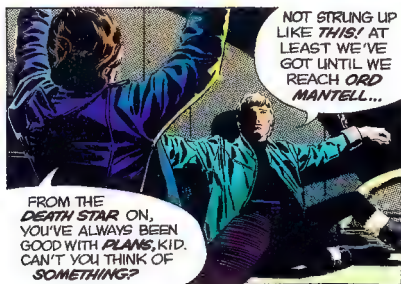
BUT IT'S
NOTHIN' COMPARED
TO WHAT HE'LL
SUFFER, SKORR...



While in one of the huge pirate vessels cargo holds...

HAN, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

UH... I WAS KIND'A HOPIN' YOU HAD A PLAN, LUKE!



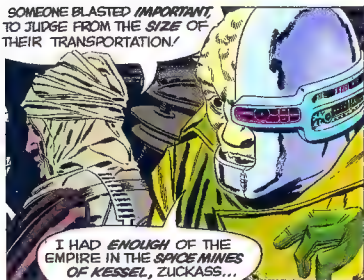
As the captured pirate ship draws nearer its destination...

LOOK AT **THAT!** SEEMS WE'RE NOT THE **ONLY** ONES VISITING ORD MANTELL!

SOMEONE FROM THE **EMPEROR'S** HERE!



SOMEONE BLASTED *IMPORTANT*,
TO JUDGE FROM THE *SIZE* OF
THEIR TRANSPORTATION!



I HAD ENOUGH OF THE
EMPIRE IN THE *SPACE MINES*
OF *KESSEL*, ZUCKASS...

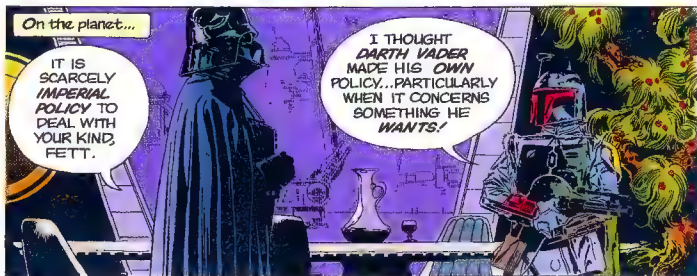
...AND *HAN SOLO* HELPED
PUT ME THERE! I DON'T WANT
IMPERIALS GRABBING HIM...
OR US! LET'S
MOVE!



EASY, SKORR!
WE'RE NOT AMATEURS...WE
WON'T GET *CAUGHT!*

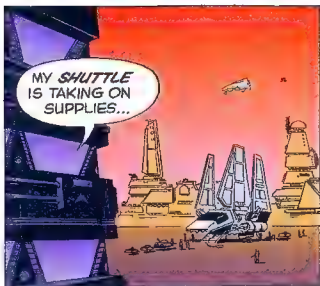
On the planet...

IT IS
SCARCELY
IMPERIAL
POLICY TO
DEAL WITH
YOUR KIND,
FETT.



I THOUGHT
DARTH VADER
MADE HIS *OWN*
POLICY...PARTICULARLY
WHEN IT CONCERNS
SOMETHING HE
WANTS!

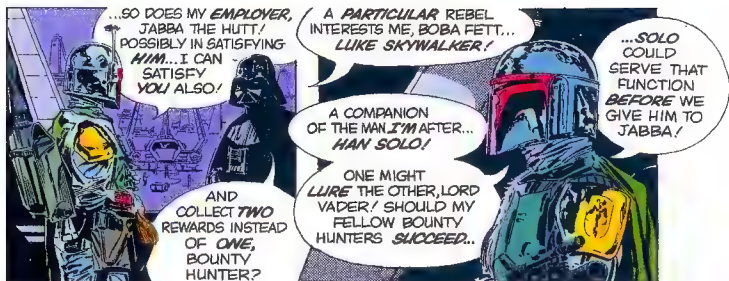
MY *SHUTTLE*
IS TAKING ON
SUPPLIES...



...YOU'VE
UNTIL THAT'S
DONE TO PROVE
YOU'RE NOT
WASTING
MY TIME!

YOU
SEEK CERTAIN
REBELS, LORD
VADER...





...SO DOES MY *EMPLOYER*,
JABBA THE HUTT!
POSSIBLY IN SATISFYING
HIM... I CAN
SATISFY
YOU ALSO!

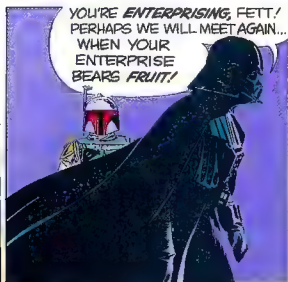
A *PARTICULAR* REBEL
INTERESTS ME, BOBA FETT...
LUKE SKYWALKER!

...*SOLO*
COULD
SERVE THAT
FUNCTION
BEFORE WE
GIVE HIM TO
JABBA!

A COMPANION
OF THE MAN I'M AFTER...
HAN SOLO!

AND
COLLECT *TWO*
REWARDS INSTEAD
OF *ONE*,
BOUNTY
HUNTER?

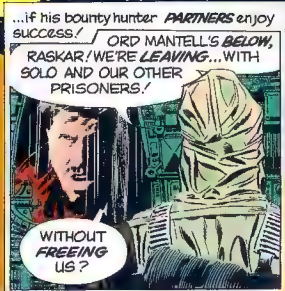
ONE MIGHT
LURE THE OTHER, LORD
VADER! SHOULD MY
FELLOW BOUNTY
HUNTERS *SUCCEED*...



YOU'RE *ENTERPRISING*, FETT!
PERHAPS WE WILL MEET AGAIN...
WHEN YOUR
ENTERPRISE
BEARS *FRUIT!*

A pleased Boba Fett watches Darth
Vader's departure from Ord Mantell...

...visions of
a *DOUBLE*
reward in his
mind...



...if his bounty hunter *PARTNERS* enjoy
success!

ORD MANTELL'S *BELOW*,
RASKAR! WE'RE *LEAVING*... WITH
SOLO AND OUR OTHER
PRISONERS!

WITHOUT
FREING
US?

MY CREW
AND I ARE STILL
LOCKED IN THIS
CARGO
HOLD!

WE SAID
WE'D LET YOU
SURVIVE, PIRATE...
WE DIDN'T
PROMISE YOU'D
ENJOY THE
CIRCUMSTANCES!

"YOU RASCAL, SKORR!"

WE DON'T *NEED* THEM,
SOLO! THE SHIP'S
SET ON
AUTO-CONTROL!

THEY'LL DRIFT
FOREVER
IN DEEP SPACE!



DON'T WORRY, CORELLIAN!
WHEN WE MEET WITH *BOBA FETT* AND TURN YOU OVER
TO *JABBA*... YOU,
SKYWALKER, AND THE
WOOKIEE WON'T GET OFF
NEARLY SO EASILY!



Bounty hunters and prisoners land
in Ord Mantell's back country...

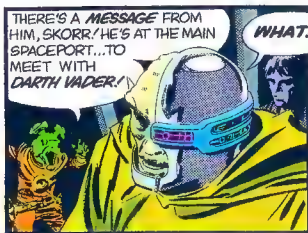
AN
ABANDONED
MOISTURE
PLANT?

WHERE GREEDY COMPETITORS
CAN'T *SPOT* YOU, SOLO! BUT...
WHERE'S *BOBA FETT*?



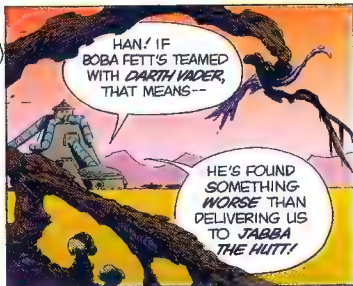
THERE'S A *MESSAGE* FROM
HIM, SKORR! HE'S AT THE MAIN
SPACEPORT... TO
MEET WITH
DARTH VADER!

WHAT?!



HAN! IF
BOBA FETT'S TEAMED
WITH *DARTH VADER*,
THAT MEANS--

HE'S FOUND
SOMETHING
WORSE THAN
DELIVERING US
TO *JABBA*
THE HUTT!





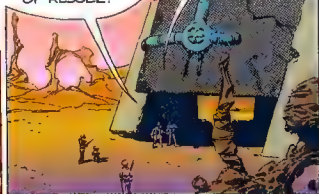
AND IT LOOKS LIKE OUR OLD BUDDY, **SKORR**, IS JUST ABOUT AS **THRILLED** BY THE NEWS AS **WE** ARE! THINGS ARE **ONLY** GONNA GET **ROUGHER** FOR US!

WHY IS **BOBA FETT** DEALING WITH THE **EMPIRE**? I HAD **ENOUGH** OF THEM IN THE **SPICE MINES** OF **KESSEL**!

BUT YOU **ESCAPED**, **SKORR**...

...WHY **FUSS** NOW IF IT MEANS MORE **PROFIT** FOR US ALL?

SEE THE **PRISONERS** ARE **SECURE** AND **QUIT** **COMPLAINING**!

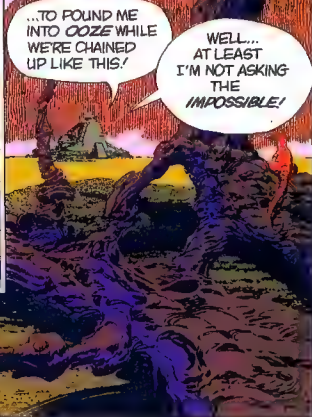


SKORR'S COMING IN TO **CHECK** ON US, HAN... TRY TO GET HIM **ANGRY**!

ANGRY? **LUKE**, HE **HATES** ME! HE'LL LEAP AT **ANY** **EXCUSE**...

...TO **FOUND** ME INTO **OOZE** WHILE WE'RE CHAINED UP LIKE THIS!

WELL... AT LEAST I'M NOT ASKING THE **IMPOSSIBLE**!



Departing Ord Mantell,
Darth Vader communicates
with...the *EMPEROR*!

THIS
DAY, MY
MASTER, THE
FLEET BEGINS
ITS SEARCH
FOR THE NEW
REBEL
BASE!

YET YOU
MAKE *OTHER*
ARRANGEMENTS
ALSO?

IF BOBA FETT'S BOUNTY HUNTERS
FIND *HAN SOLO*...THEY MAY FIND
MY SON AS WELL! IT MAY BE
UNLIKELY, YET...

SOMETIMES THE *REMOTE*
PATH LEADS TO THE GOAL
FIRST. YOU *PLEASE* ME,
MY SERVANT!

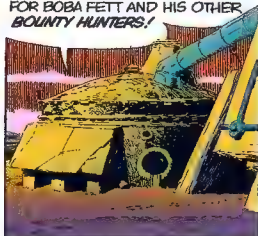


Skorr enters...glowering at the trio of prisoners!

GOOD! JUST AS I NOTICED EARLIER! NOW, IF HAN COMES THROUGH!



PITIFUL, ISN'T IT, CHEWIE? SKORR WAS A SHARP OPPONENT LAST TIME WE CLASHED...NOW HE'S A FLUNKY FOR BOBA FETT AND HIS OTHER BOUNTY HUNTERS!



GUESS ALL THAT TIME IN THE SPICE MINES OF KESSEL BROKE HIM! TURNED HIM INTO--

SOLO! YOU'LL PAY!

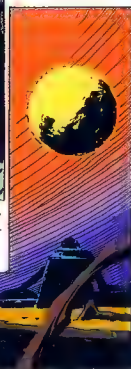
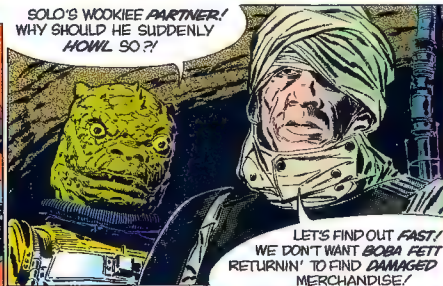
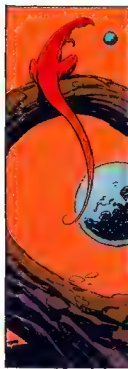
Han's goading words bring Skorr violently charging!

BOWWRRRRRAARRRK!



SOLO'S WOOKIEE PARTNER! WHY SHOULD HE SUDDENLY HOWL SO?!

LET'S FIND OUT FAST! WE DON'T WANT BOBA FETT RETURNIN' TO FIND DAMAGED MERCHANDISE!



Before Skorr's attack can go further...

WE WARNED YOU ABOUT
LETTING THIS GET
PERSONAL!

SOLO PROVOKED
ME! JUST KEEP
ME AWAY FROM
HIM!



The bounty hunters hustle their
furious associate outside...

MAYBE I'M STILL
PUNCHY...BUT...WHAT DID
THAT ACCOMPLISH,
LUKE?

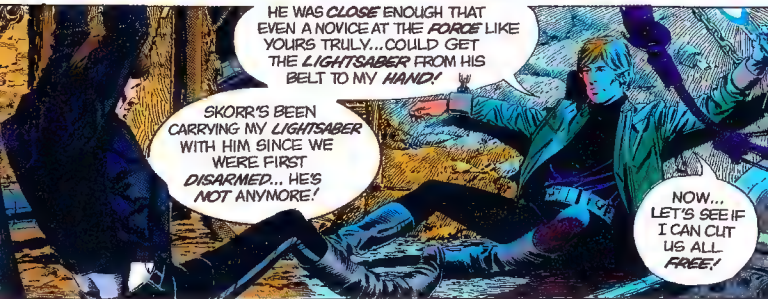
PLENTY,
HAN!



HE WAS CLOSE ENOUGH THAT
EVEN A NOVICE AT THE FORCE LIKE
YOURS TRULY...COULD GET
THE LIGHTSABER FROM HIS
BELT TO MY HAND!

SKORR'S BEEN
CARRYING MY LIGHTSABER
WITH HIM SINCE WE
WERE FIRST
DISARMED... HE'S
NOT ANYMORE!

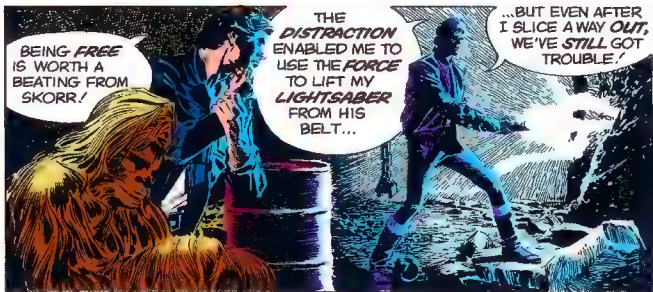
NOW...
LET'S SEE IF
I CAN CUT
US ALL
FREE!



BEING FREE
IS WORTH A
BEATING FROM
SKORR!

THE
DISTRACTION
ENABLED ME TO
USE THE FORCE
TO LIFT MY
LIGHTSABER
FROM HIS
BELT...

...BUT EVEN AFTER
I SLICE A WAY OUT,
WE'VE STILL GOT
TROUBLE!



His lightsaber regained... Luke frees himself, Han, and Chewie! Then...

I'VE
CUT THROUGH
THE **REAR**
WALL!

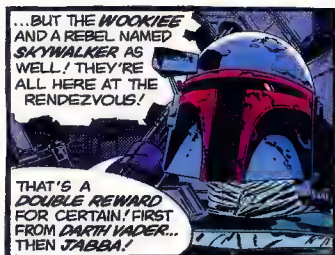
GREAT, KID! WHILE OUR BOUNTY-HUNTING HOSTS ARE YAKKIN' OUT **FRONT**... WE'LL BE LONG GONE OUT **BACK**!

THEY'RE
TALKIN' ON
A **COMLINK**!
I WONDER
WHO--?

A ship streaks low over the Ord Mantell wastelands...
Boba Fett's **SLAVE I**!

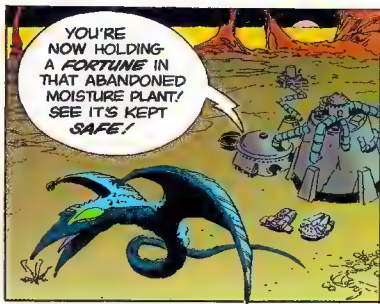
ZUCKASS! YOUR
GROUP'S **BACK**?
WHAT **NEWS**?!

THE **BEST**!
WE NOT ONLY
FOLLOWED YOUR
LEAD TO
SOLO...

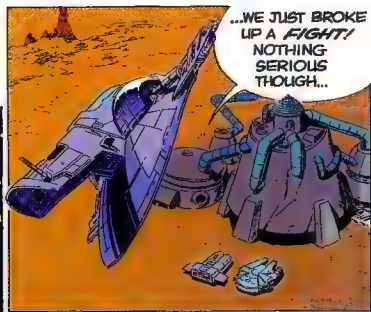


...BUT THE **WOOKIEE**
AND A REBEL NAMED
SKYWALKER AS
WELL! THEY'RE
ALL HERE AT THE
RENDEZVOUS!

THAT'S A
DOUBLE REWARD
FOR CERTAIN! FIRST
FROM **DARTH VADER**...
THEN **JABBA**!



YOU'RE
NOW HOLDING
A **FORTUNE** IN
THAT ABANDONED
MOISTURE PLANT!
SEE IT'S KEPT
SAFE!



...WE JUST BROKE
UP A **FIGHT!**
NOTHING
SERIOUS
THOUGH...

Boba Fett's **SLAVE I** lands at
the bounty hunters' lair...

FOOLS! WHILE YOU
WERE ON THE COM-
LINK WITH **ME**...
YOUR PRISONERS
WERE **ESCAPING!**



I SAW THEM
RUNNING OUT THE
REAR OF THE
MOISTURE PLANT
AS I FLEW OVER!

**AFTER
THEM!**

THEY
HEADED INTO THE
DESERT... WITHOUT
TIME TO DISGUISE
THEIR **TRACKS!**

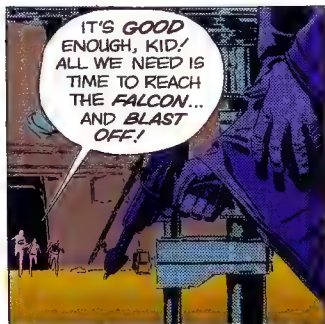
WE'LL
NAIL 'EM
BEFORE
THEY GET
FAR!

The bounty hunters, led by Boba Fett, follow the tracks away from the moisture plant...

IT'S *WORKIN'*, LUKE!

ONLY UNTIL THEY GET BEYOND THAT *RISE*, HAN...

...AND FIND THE TRAIL SUDDENLY *ENDS*! WALKING *BACKWARDS* IN YOUR OWN TRACKS IS A TRICK THE *SAND PEOPLE* USE ON TATOOINE, BUT--



IT'S *GOOD* ENOUGH, KID! ALL WE NEED IS TIME TO REACH THE *FALCON*... AND *BLAST OFF*!

The three Star Warriors rush for the *MILLENNIUM FALCON* and escape!

THOSE BOUNTY HUNTERS WILL DISCOVER OUR TRACKS ARE *FALSE* ANY MOMENT NOW, HAN!

WE'LL BE *ROCKETIN' AWAY* WHILE THEY'RE STILL *RUNNIN' BACK* HERE!



DON'T *BET* ON IT, SOLO!

SKORR! YOU DIDN'T
RUSH OFF WITH
BOBA FETT AND THE
OTHERS!

I HUNG BACK,
SOLO... KNOWING
YOU WOULDN'T GO
FAR FROM YOUR
SHIP!

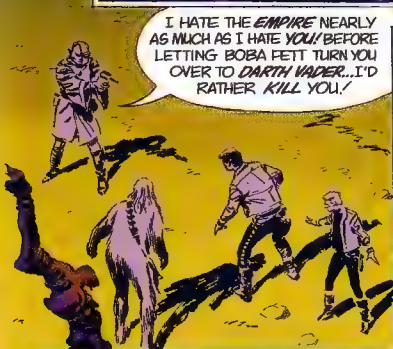


IN FACT, I WAS PURPOSELY CARELESS
WITH YOUNG SKYWALKER'S LIGHTSABER
SO YOU COULD
ESCAPE!



BUT...
WHY?

I HATE THE *EMPIRE* NEARLY
AS MUCH AS I HATE YOU! BEFORE
LETTING BOBA FETT TURN YOU
OVER TO DARTH VADER... I'D
RATHER KILL YOU!



SKORR, IF YOU BLAST ME...
YOU'LL GET MUCH LESS
BOUNTY FROM JABBA!



WE'D
NEVER REACH
THE HUTT, SOLO...
NOT WITH BOBA
FETT ON OUR
TRAIL!

MY BEST
REVENGE
AGAINST YOU--AND
THE *EMPIRE*--FOR
MY TIME IN THEIR
SPICE MINES
ON KESSEL...

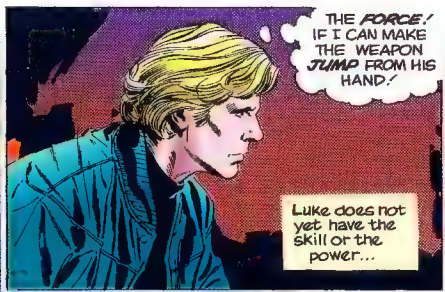
...IS TO
KILL YOU AND
YOUR FRIENDS
RIGHT
NOW!



AT
LEAST MAKE
IT A FAIR
FIGHT!

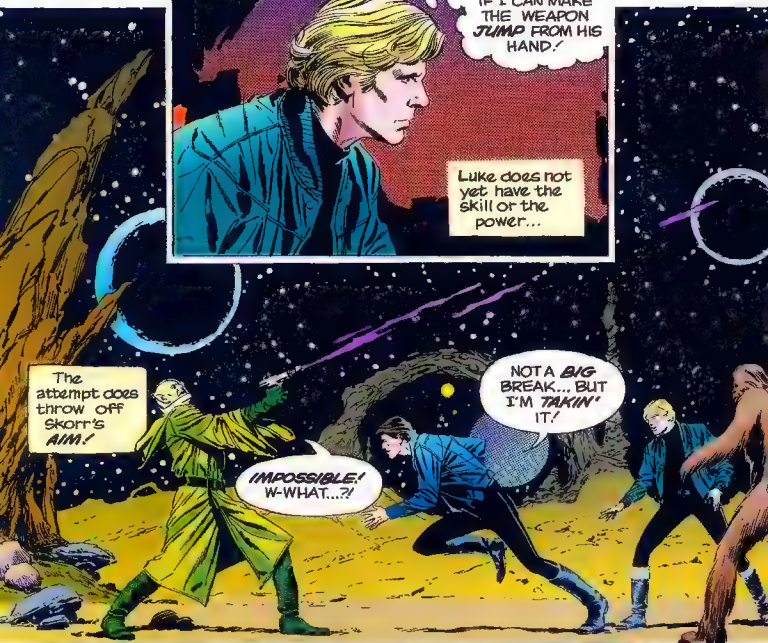


THROW YOU
A BLASTER?
THERE ISN'T TIME
TO BE SPORTING,
SOLO!



THE *FORCE*!
IF I CAN MAKE
THE WEAPON
JUMP FROM HIS
HAND!

Luke does not
yet have the
skill or the
power...



The
attempt does
throw off
Skorr's
AIM!

IMPOSSIBLE!
W-WHAT...?!

NOT A *BIG*
BREAK... BUT
I'M *TAKIN'*
IT!

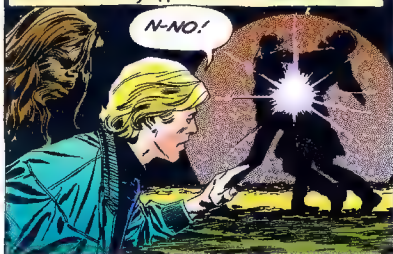


The bounty hunter's
shot is *SPOILED* enough
for Han to strike...

...HARD!



Before Luke and Chewbacca can reach them, Han and Skorr grapple for the blaster. Then...



HE WAS SO ANXIOUS TO KILL ME... HE TRIGGERED THE GUN WHILE I WAS STILL SHOVIN' THE BARREL HIS WAY!

SKORR'S NOT OUR ONLY WORRY, HAN!



VARROWWRRRL!

YEAH, CHEWIE... BOBA FETT AND HIS BOUNTY HUNTERS! LUKE WAS RIGHT... THEY DIDN'T STAY TRICKED LONG!

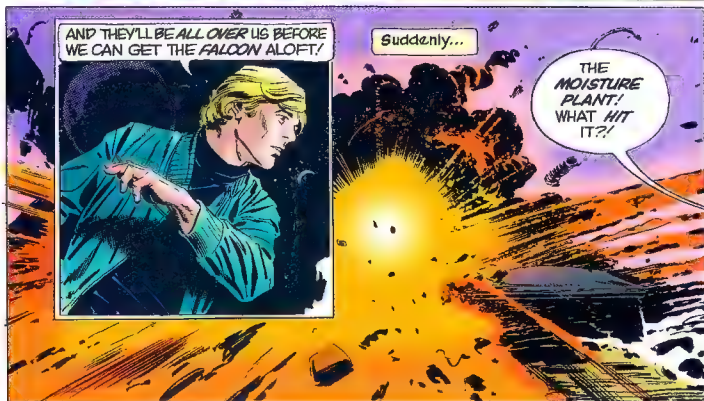


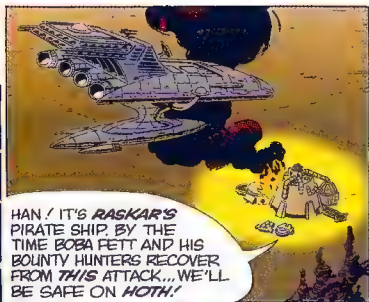
AND THEY'LL BE ALL OVER US BEFORE WE CAN GET THE FALCON ALOFT!



Suddenly...

THE MOISTURE PLANT! WHAT HIT IT?!





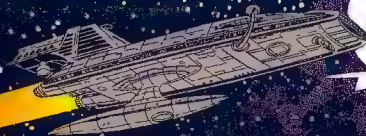
HAN / IT'S *RASKAR'S* PIRATE SHIP. BY THE TIME BOBA FETT AND HIS BOUNTY HUNTERS RECOVER FROM *THIS* ATTACK... WE'LL BE SAFE ON *HOTH*!



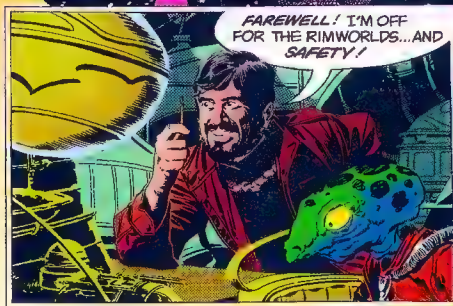
And...

HEY, YOU BEARDED SURPRISE PARTY! THE LAST I RECALL... YOU WERE LOCKED IN YOUR OWN HOLD AN' HEADED BY AUTO-CONTROL FOR *DEEP SPACE*!

Above the surface of Ord Mantell... two ships part!



SOLO, MY FRIEND... IT'S DIFFICULT TO BECOME A PIRATE WITHOUT FIRST BEING A *THIEF*! AND WHAT *WORTHWHILE* THIEF... IS EVER CAUGHT WITHOUT A *LOCKPICK*?



FAREWELL! I'M OFF FOR THE RIMWORLDS... AND SAFETY!

SINCE YOU TOOK OUT
SKORP AFTER HE MISSED
HIS SHOT AT YOU, HAN... I'D
SAY OUR TROUBLES ARE
OVER!

THE
IMPERIALS
MIGHT NOT
AGREE, LUKE...



"...BUT I'M BETTIN' EVEN
THEY CAN'T PREVENT US
FROM REACHIN' OUR HOTH
BASE NOW!"

NOTHING FROM
THE *BOUNTY HUNTERS*,
MY SERVANT?

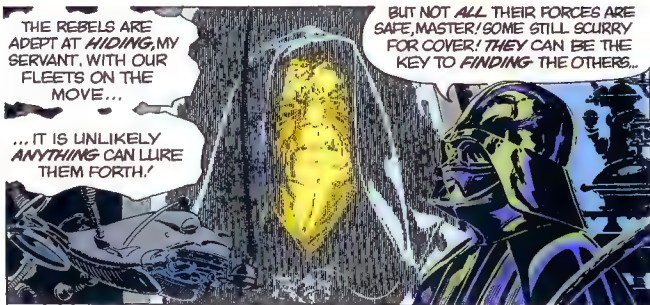
I HAVE
OTHER PLANS,
MASTER...



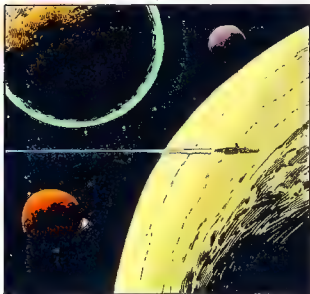
THE REBELS ARE
ADEPT AT *HIDING*, MY
SERVANT, WITH OUR
FLEETS ON THE
MOVE...

...IT IS UNLIKELY
ANYTHING CAN LURE
THEM FORTH!

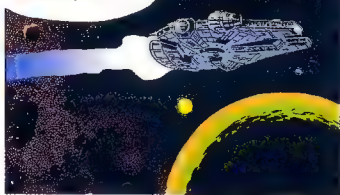
BUT NOT *ALL* THEIR FORCES ARE
SAFE, MASTER! SOME STILL SCURRY
FOR COVER! THEY CAN BE THE
KEY TO *FINDING* THE OTHERS...



"...EVEN IF IT IS ONLY *ONE* SMALL SHIP!"



WE SEEM TO HAVE
HIT A *QUIET* SECTOR
OF SPACE, LUKE!
SHOULD BE SAFE
TO GET OFF
A CODED
MESSAGE!



BUT DON'T GET *GABBY*! THE
EMPIRE *STILL* MIGHT HAVE
TIME TO *TRACE* US!



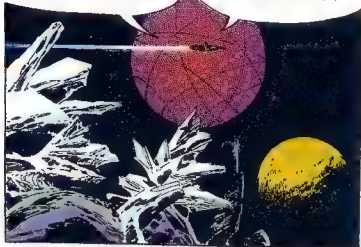
HAN, I
JUST WANT
TO ALERT *HOTH*
THAT WE'RE
SAFE AND
COMING HOME
AND--

OH,
NO!



LUKE, DON'T TELL ME
THERE'S *TROUBLE*!
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH
ENOUGH *TROUBLE*!

BEFORE I COULD
CONTACT HOTH BASE,
I *PICKED UP*
SOMETHING...



A REBEL
DISTRESS
BEACON!

I TOLD YOU
NOT TO TELL
ME! IT'S GOTTA
BE A TRICK OR
A TRAP!





BUT, HAN...
WHAT IF
IT ISN'T?!



WE'RE *NEVER*
GONNA GET BACK
TO HOTH AT THE
RATE WE'RE
GOIN', LUKE.

HAN, JUST LET ME CHECK
WITH THEM ABOUT THAT
DISTRESS BEACON...



...IF NO ONE IN THE
REBEL COMMAND IS
UNACCOUNTED FOR,
THEN IT'S PROBABLY
AN *IMPERIAL TRICK!*

I GOT
A *BAD*
FEELIN'
ABOUT
THIS...!

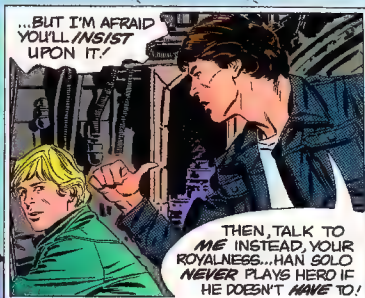


And...

LUKE... IT'S *WONDERFUL*
TO KNOW YOU, HAN AND
CHEWBACCA ARE SAFE!
BUT... *THIS SITUATION!*
SOMEONE IS MISSING!

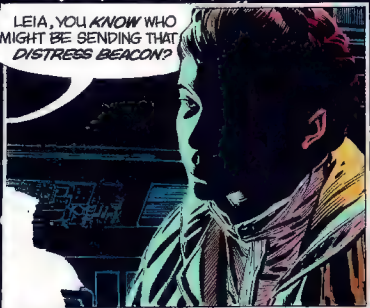


I CAN'T
ORDER YOU TO
INVESTIGATE
THE REBEL
DISTRESS
BEACON YOU'VE
PICKED UP,
LUKE...



...BUT I'M AFRAID
YOU'LL *INSIST*
UPON IT!

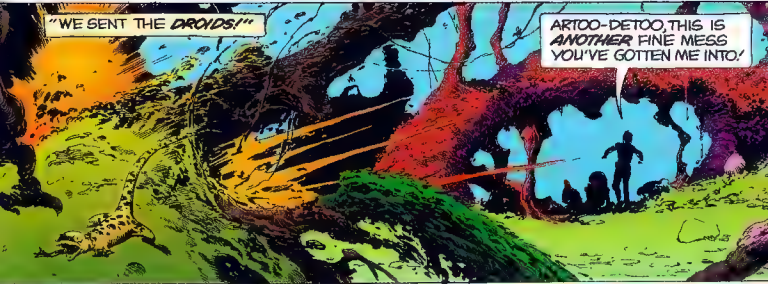
THEN, TALK TO
ME INSTEAD, YOUR
ROYALNESS... HAN SOLO
NEVER PLAYS HERO IF
HE DOESN'T *HAVE* TO!



LEIA, YOU *KNOW* WHO
MIGHT BE SENDING THAT
DISTRESS BEACON?



A MESSENGER-
DRONE FROM THE
EMPIRE'S HIGH
COMMAND HAS CRASHED
ON THE PLANET
VERDANTH. TO
MINIMIZE RISK
INVESTIGATING IT...



"WE SENT THE *DROIDS*!"

ARTOO-DETOO, THIS IS
ANOTHER FINE MESS
YOU'VE GOTTEN ME INTO!



DON'T *STOP*, YOU
SLOW-ROLLING
RUNT...WE'RE
STILL IN THE
LINE OF FIRE!

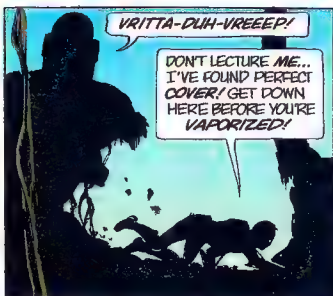


ARTOO-DETOO, IF
YOU'RE GOING TO
HALT IN THE MIDST
OF DODGING THESE
BLASTS...

...I'LL TAKE
THE LEAD!



OHHHHHH!



VRITTA-DUH-VREEEP!

DON'T LECTURE ME...
I'VE FOUND PERFECT
COVER! GET DOWN
HERE BEFORE YOU'RE
VAPORIZED!

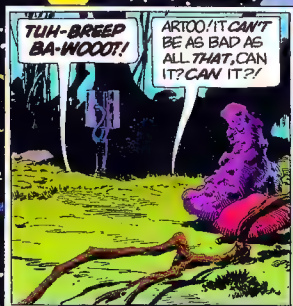


WHRRRT
TA-BLI!

I'M QUITE AWARE WE
CAN'T FULFILL OUR
MISSION BY HIDING
IN A DITCH,ARTOO...



...WE ALSO CAN'T
INVESTIGATE THAT
IMPERIAL MESSENGER
DRONE IF WE'RE
BLASTED INTO USE-
LESS SCRAP! BUT IF
YOU INSIST ON
QUICKLY PEEKING...
I CAN'T STOP
YOU!



TUH-BREEP
BA-WOOT!

ARTOO! IT CAN'T
BE AS BAD AS
ALL THAT, CAN
IT? CAN IT?!

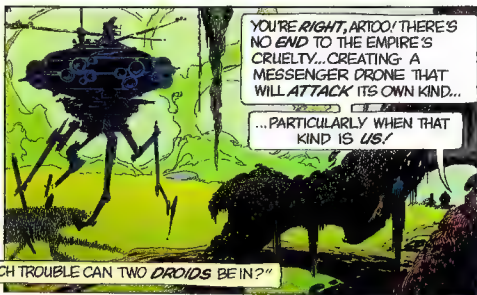


ARTOO
AND THREEPIO?!
HAN, WE'VE
GOT TO--

I KNOW, I KNOW! WE'VE GOTTA *RESOLVE* THEM! IT'S NOT LIKE WE'VE *DONE* MUCH LATELY...EXCEPT *DECOY* PIRATES AND *DUEL BOUNTY* HUNTERS! BESIDES...



"...HOW MUCH TROUBLE CAN TWO *DROIDS* BEIN'?"



YOU'RE *RIGHT*, ARTOO! THERE'S NO *END* TO THE EMPIRE'S CRUELTY...CREATING A MESSENGER DRONE THAT WILL *ATTACK* ITS OWN KIND...

...PARTICULARLY WHEN THAT KIND IS *US*!

Meanwhile...

CAPTAIN, THE SPECIAL LASERWAVE TRANSMISSION! LORD VADER'S *TRAP* HAS ATTRACTED SOMEONE!



HE'LL WISH TO KNOW *IMMEDIATELY*!

WAIT! ACCORDING TO THIS *INFORMATION* YOU'RE RECEIVING, LORD VADER'S TRAP HAS BEEN SPRUNG BY... *DROIDS*?!

DISAPPOINTING SIR! BUT...PERHAPS *SOMETHING* WILL COME OF IT!

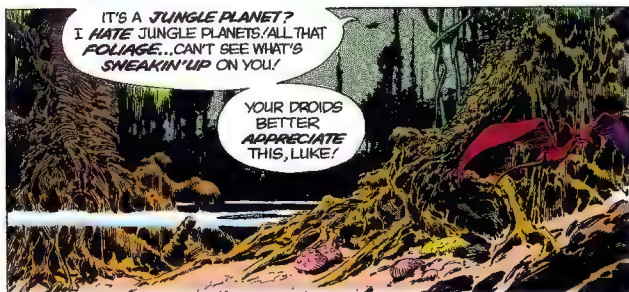
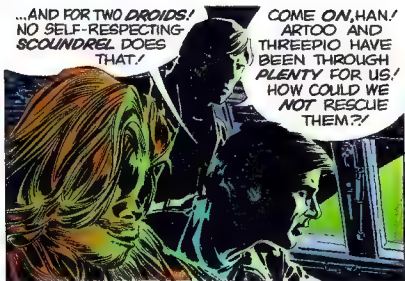


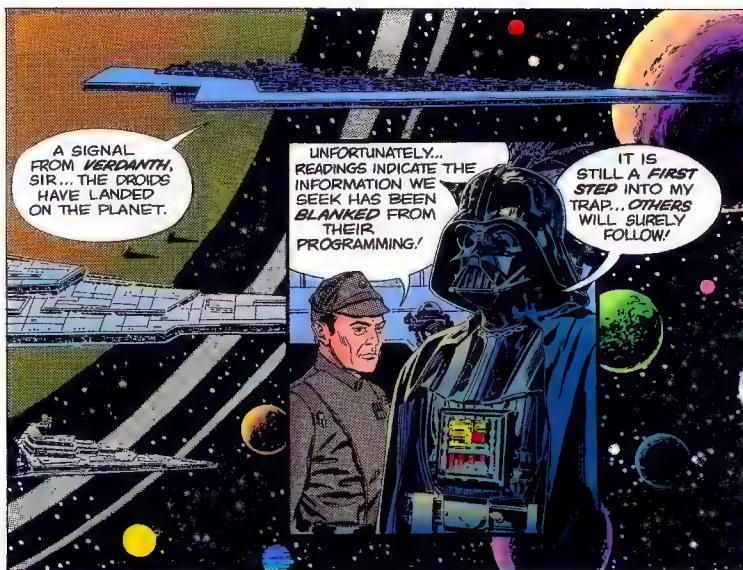
And...

HAN, YOU'RE GOING TO HELP RESCUE ARTOO AND THREEPIO WITHOUT EVEN *GRIPING*?



I DON'T BELIEVE I'M *DOING* THIS! AFTER ALL WE'VE *ALREADY* BEEN THROUGH, I'M *PLAYIN'* HERO *AGAIN*...





A SIGNAL FROM *VERDANTH*, SIR... THE DROIDS HAVE LANDED ON THE PLANET.

UNFORTUNATELY... READINGS INDICATE THE INFORMATION WE SEEK HAS BEEN **BLANKED** FROM THEIR PROGRAMMING!

IT IS STILL A **FIRST STEP** INTO MY TRAP... **OTHERS** WILL SURELY FOLLOW!

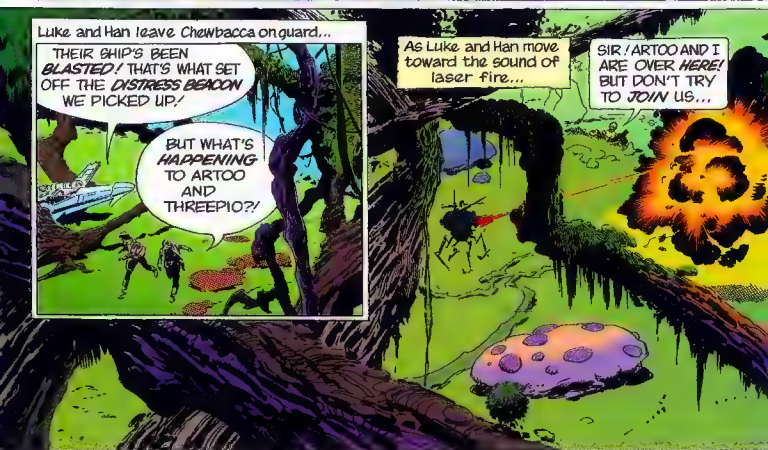
Luke and Han leave Chewbacca on guard...

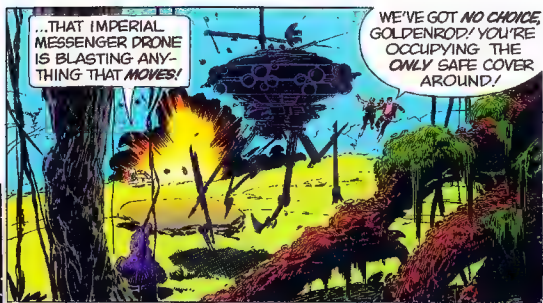
THEIR SHIP'S BEEN **BLASTED!** THAT'S WHAT SET OFF THE *DISTRESS BEACON* WE PICKED UP!

BUT WHAT'S **HAPPENING** TO ARTOO AND THREEPIO?!

As Luke and Han move toward the sound of laser fire...

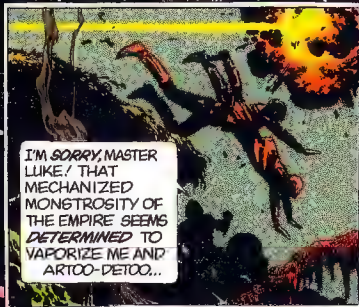
SIR! ARTOO AND I ARE OVER **HERE!** BUT DON'T TRY TO **JOIN US...**





...THAT IMPERIAL
MESSENGER DRONE
IS BLASTING ANY-
THING THAT *MOVES*!

WE'VE GOT *NO CHOICE*,
GOLDENROD! YOU'RE
OCCUPYING THE
ONLY SAFE COVER
AROUND!



I'M *SORRY*, MASTER
LUKE! THAT
MECHANIZED
MONSTROSITY OF
THE EMPIRE SEEMS
DETERMINED TO
VAPORIZE ME AND
ARTOO-DETOO...



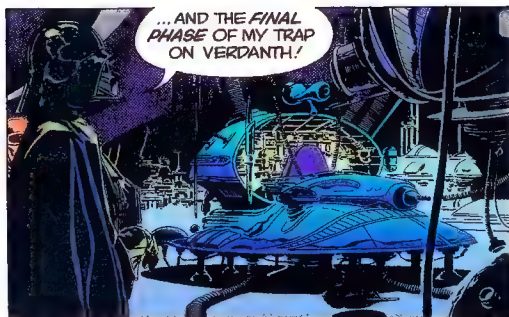
...NOW IT'S BOUND TO
GET YOU AND CAPTAIN
SOLO AS WELL!

MAYBE,
THREEPIO! BUT,
FUNNY... IT
SEEMS TO HAVE
STOPPED
FIRING!

Excitement
sweeps Darth
Vader's battle
cruiser...

HUMAN
REBELS ARE NEAR
THE MESSENGER
DRONE? QUICKLY,
THEN! TO THE
CYBERNETIC
CHAMBER...

LORD
VADER! NEW
TRANSMISSION
FROM THE DRONE
ON VERDANTH... IT
NOW HAS
HUMAN
CONTACT!



...AND THE **FINAL**
PHASE OF MY TRAP
ON VERDANTH!

On Verdanth...

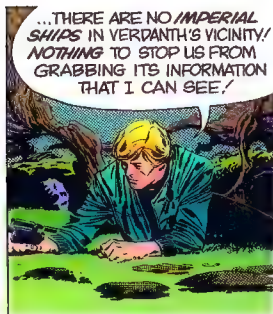
WHAT DO YOU
THINK'S GOIN' ON
WITH THAT THING
LUKE?

TIME TO
INVESTIGATE!



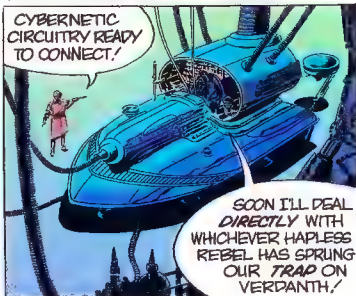
COULD THAT
MESSENGER DRONE
BE PROGRAMMED
TO SHOOT ONLY AT
DROIDS?

IT SURE
STOPPED
ONCE WE
ARRIVED, HAN!
EVEN IF IT'S
RIGGED TO
ALERT THE
EMPIRE...



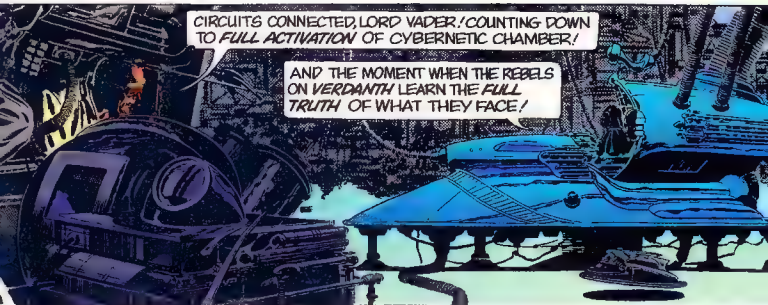
...THERE ARE NO **IMPERIAL**
SHIPS IN VERDANTH'S VICINITY!
NOTHING TO STOP US FROM
GRABBING ITS INFORMATION
THAT I CAN SEE!

But aboard Darth Vader's cruiser...



CYBERNETIC
CIRCUITRY READY
TO CONNECT!

SOON I'LL DEAL
DIRECTLY WITH
WHICHEVER HAPLESS
REBEL HAS SPRUNG
OUR **TRAP** ON
VERDANTH!



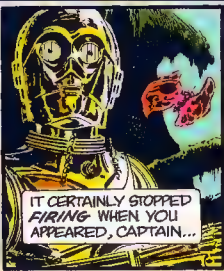
CIRCUITS CONNECTED, LORD VADER! COUNTING DOWN TO FULL ACTIVATION OF CYBERNETIC CHAMBER!

AND THE MOMENT WHEN THE REBELS ON VERDANTH LEARN THE FULL TRUTH OF WHAT THEY FACE!



On Verdanth, Luke and Han reach the droids to find...

THAT IMPERIAL MESSENGER DRONE'S DEFENSES SEEM ONLY TO WORK AGAINST OTHER MECHANICALS!



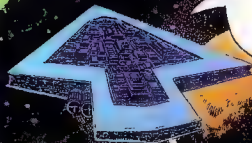
IT CERTAINLY STOPPED FIRING WHEN YOU APPEARED, CAPTAIN...

...SURELY, IT'S SOME INSIDIOUS TRICK! MASTER LUKE, PERHAPS YOU SHOULDN'T--

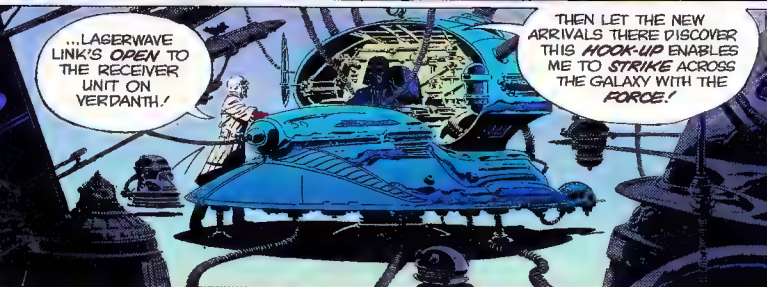
IF IT HAS INFORMATION THAT'LL HELP THE ALLIANCE, THE RISKS WORTH IT! BESIDES...



...EVEN IF IT'S
ALERTING THE **EMPIRE**
TO OUR PRESENCE,
THEY DON'T HAVE THE FORCES
CLOSE ENOUGH TO
CATCH US!

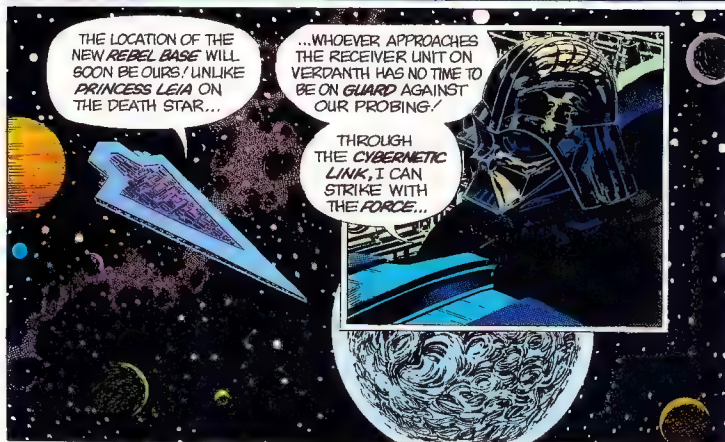


CYBERNETIC
CHAMBER IS
FULLY
ACTIVATED,
LORD
VADER...



...LASERWAVE
LINK'S OPEN TO
THE RECEIVER
UNIT ON
VERDANTH!

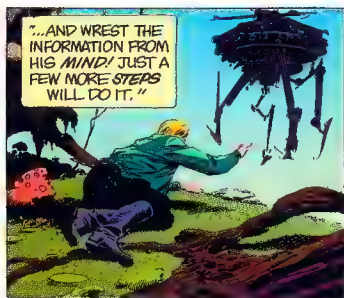
THEN LET THE NEW
ARRIVALS THERE DISCOVER
THIS **HOOK-UP** ENABLES
ME TO **STRIKE** ACROSS
THE GALAXY WITH THE
FORCE!



THE LOCATION OF THE
NEW **REBEL BASE** WILL
SOON BE OURS! UNLIKE
PRINCESS LEIA ON
THE DEATH STAR...

...WHOEVER APPROACHES
THE RECEIVER UNIT ON
VERDANTH HAS NO TIME TO
BE ON **GUARD** AGAINST
OUR PROBING!

THROUGH
THE **CYBERNETIC**
LINK, I CAN
STRIKE WITH
THE **FORCE**...

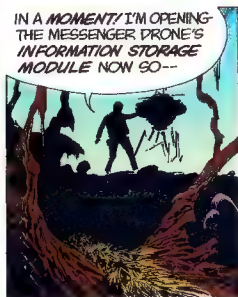


"...AND WREST THE INFORMATION FROM HIS MIND! JUST A FEW MORE STEPS WILL DO IT."

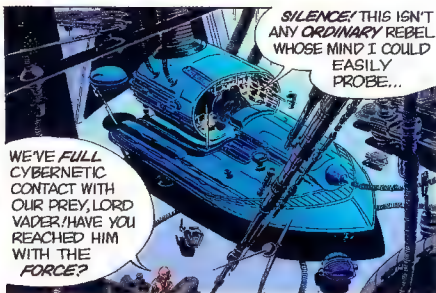


MASTER LUKE!
I WISH YOU
WOULDN'T DO
THIS, SIR!

YEAH, KID! GOLDENROD'S
BEGINNIN' TO MAKE ME
NERVOUS ABOUT YOU!
C'MON BACK!

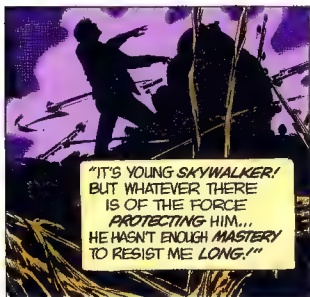


IN A MOMENT! I'M OPENING
THE MESSENGER DRONE'S
INFORMATION STORAGE
MODULE NOW SO--

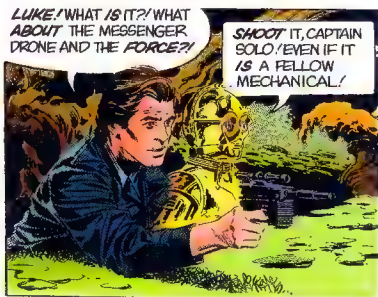


SILENCE! THIS ISN'T
ANY ORDINARY REBEL
WHOSE MIND I COULD
EASILY PROBE...

WE'VE FULL
CYBERNETIC
CONTACT WITH
OUR PREY, LORD
VADER! HAVE YOU
REACHED HIM
WITH THE
FORCE?



"IT'S YOUNG SKYWALKER!
BUT WHATEVER THERE
IS OF THE FORCE
PROTECTING HIM...
HE HASN'T ENOUGH MASTERY
TO RESIST ME LONG!"



LUKE! WHAT IS IT? WHAT
ABOUT THE MESSENGER
DRONE AND THE FORCE?!

SHOOT IT, CAPTAIN
SOLO! EVEN IF IT
IS A FELLOW
MECHANICAL!

As Luke attempts to retrieve information from the Imperial messenger drone...
DARTH VADER STRIKES!



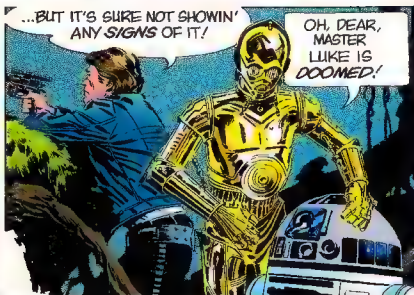
NOOOOOOO!

**T-THE FORCE!
SOMEONE...REACHING
OUT...THROUGH
THE
MACHINE!**



**CAPTAIN SOLO, WE CAN'T JUST
ABANDON MASTER LUKE
TO HIS FATE!**

**I'LL
KEEP FIRIN';
THREPIO/MAYBE
THAT IMPERIAL DRONE'S
FORCE FIELD WILL
WEAKEN...**



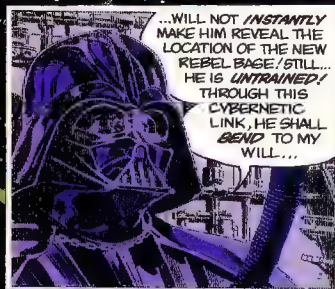
**...BUT IT'S SURE NOT SHOWIN'
ANY SIGNS OF IT!**

**OH, DEAR,
MASTER
LUKE IS
DOOMED!**

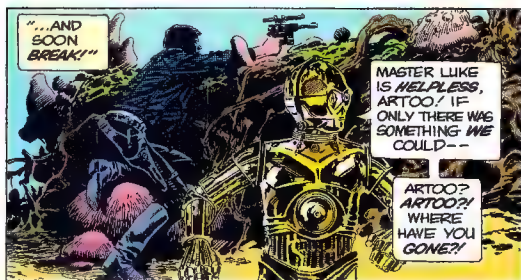


**SKYWALKER!
OF ALL THE REBELS
WHO MIGHT HAVE
FALLEN INTO MY
TRAP ON VERDANTH!**

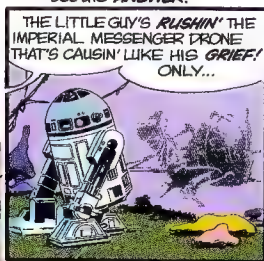
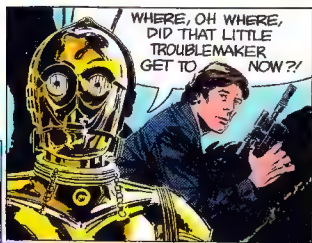
**THE FORCE IS
STRONG ENOUGH
WITHIN HIM THAT
MY LONG-DISTANCE
PROBING...**



**...WILL NOT INSTANTLY
MAKE HIM REVEAL THE
LOCATION OF THE NEW
REBEL BASE/STILL...
HE IS UNTRAINED!
THROUGH THIS
CYBERNETIC
LINK, HE SHALL
BEND TO MY
WILL...**

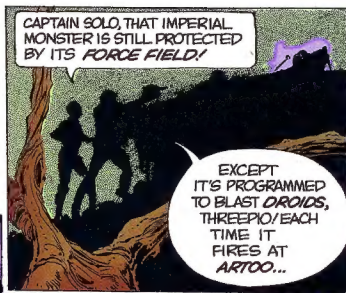


The golden droid and Han Solo soon see the **ANSWER!**





WAIT
A
MINUTE!



CAPTAIN SOLO, THAT IMPERIAL
MONSTER IS STILL PROTECTED
BY ITS *FORCE FIELD*!

EXCEPT
IT'S PROGRAMMED
TO BLAST *DROIDS*,
THREEPIO/ EACH
TIME IT
FIRES AT
ARTOO...



...IT HAS TO *OPEN* THE
SHIELD SLIGHTLY!
TIMING... AIM... HAVE
TO BE *PERFECT*!
BUT...

Aboard the
EXECUTOR...



YOUR
SMALL,
UNTRAINED
DEFENSES ARE
CRUMBLING, LIKE
SKYWALKER/ YOUR
MIND IS ALMOST
OPEN TO ME...
TOTALLY!



YOU *DID* IT, CAPTAIN SOLO/ SHOT
THE IMPERIAL'S DRONE IN THE
VERY *INSTANT* IT OPENED
ITS *FORCE FIELD* TO
BLAST *ARTOO*!

IT WAS OUR
ONLY *CHANCE*,
THREEPIO, BUT
WHAT'S IT
COST *LUKE*?



LUKE!
ARE
YOU?

I-I'M OKAY, HAN!
BUT...DARTH VADER
ALMOST *HAD* ME,
EVEN REACHING
ACROSS SPACE...

...HE'S SO
MUCH *BETTER*
WITH THE
FORCE!
I'M SO
UNTRAINED!

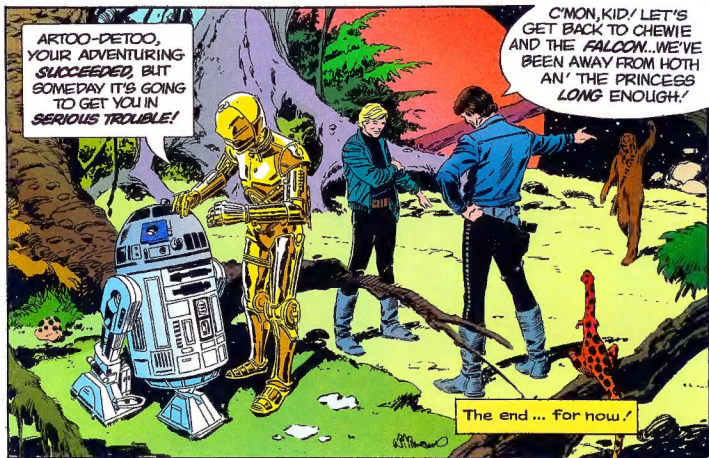
BUT YOU'VE GOT
MORE *FRIENDS* THAN
HE'LL *EVER* HAVE,
KID! WITH *THAT*
GOIN' FOR YOU...



"...I'M BETTIN' YOU'LL
STILL COME OUT
AHEAD!"

ALL SIGNALS
ARE DEAD, LORD
VADER!

LOST HIM *AGAIN*!
CONTINUE LAUNCHING *PROBES*!
PERHAPS ONE OF *THOSE* WILL
DO WHAT WE FAILED TO
ACCOMPLISH WITH OUR *TRAP*
ON VERDANTH!



ARTOO-DETOO,
YOUR ADVENTURING
SUCCEEDED, BUT
SOMEDAY IT'S GOING
TO GET YOU IN
SERIOUS TROUBLE!

C'MON, KID! LET'S
GET BACK TO CHEWIE
AND THE *FALCON*...WE'VE
BEEN AWAY FROM HOTH
AN' THE PRINCESS
LONG ENOUGH!

The end ... for now!

STELLAR



10956 S.E. MAIN STREET

MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

As we wrap up the last issue of our first *Classic Star Wars* series of reprints, there is much unfinished business to take care of — and unfortunately very little space to do it in. I apologize for the lack of letters. We'll continue with fan reaction in the first issue of our next *Classic Star Wars* series reprinting the 1979-80 run of Russ Manning newspaper strips, to begin publication in August. That series will be called *Classic Star Wars: The Early Adventures*. Thanks to everyone who sent in suggestions for the series title (there were some clever ones, some funny ones, and some outright unusual ones). The contest winner was . . . Jennifer Delgado, of Abilene, TX, who will shortly be receiving some bonafide original *Star Wars* art for her wall. Great suggestion, Jennifer!

In the "credit where credit is due" department . . . I'd like to take this opportunity one last time to briefly mention *everyone* who's had a hand in this book's success. Beginning with, of course, the series' original editor, Anina Bennett, who was ably assisted in figuring out just how to put this book together by Jennie Bricker. Marty Todd (now at DC — hi, Marty!) developed the first book design for the series, with Scott Fuentes introducing a new look beginning with issue #11 (great work, Scott!). Paste-up and production chores have been handled by several people throughout the run of this book, beginning with Cary Grazzini and Debra Koch, and including Monty Sheldon (who also helped out on issue #12 with some eleventh-hour art retouch), Jack Pollock, Ray Gruen, Chris Chalenor, Steve Birch, Joey Kamel, Egon Selby, and most recently and significantly, Evelyn Harris (. . . we couldn't have done it without you, Evelyn!).

The Dark Horse color separation department has been instrumental in translating the great work of color artists Steve Buccellato, Matthew Hollingsworth, and Ray Murtaugh to the computer. The current coloring department staff includes supervisors Sean Tierney, David Chippis, the aforementioned Debra Koch, Cara Niece (thanks for the ace correction work, Cara!), Todd McAllister, Jimmy Johns, Dave

Nestelle, and computer colorists Kai Thomasian, Tim Tran, Cary Porter, Lawrence Pierce, Tiffany Ayers, Jay Allard, Stuart Hiner, Dave Stewart, Letty Rodriguez, John Hanan, Brian Neubauer, Margaret Froese, Lisa Stamp, Mark Vick, and Art Knight. Thanks should also go to departed computer colorists Carolyn Stinson and Jay Moreau, among others, for their work on the earlier issues of the series. Film output has been handled by Heather Hale and Adam Gallardo, and film stripping is supervised by Rich Powers, who is currently assisted by Russ Bates, Leesa Anderson, Thom Rabie, and Karl Gillespie. Brian Gogolin, Diane Kintrea-Wassman, Dan Fournier, and Steve Posey were all involved in the film stripping of *Classic Star Wars* at one point or another.

Suzanne Taylor acts as the Keeper of the Bubbled Word at Dark Horse, proofreading *every single piece* of information that flows through these hallowed halls — *Classic Star Wars* included. And I don't want to forget to thank my oft-used right-hand woman, Debbie Byrd, for some much appreciated last-minute color proofing help. Whew! Hope I didn't miss anyone.

Creative Productions, in Norcross, GA, stepped in and helped us out of a bind with color separations and film output on a couple of issues. Thanks go to Sam, Al, and the rest of the crew down south. And thanks for the grits, guys! And of course, thanks are due north of the border to Ronald's Printing of Montreal for getting copies printed and out to distributors on time each and every month.

On the licensing end, Lucasfilm's Lucy Autrey Wilson and Sue Rostoni have not only done a fantastic job of making the licensing approval process as seamless as possible, but have also provided some helpful suggestions for improving the book along the way. Thank you!

Much thanks also to the literally dozens of artists and would-be artists who sent in submissions to the *Star Wars* Showcase. Unfortunately, we just didn't have room to print many of the submissions. I appreciated, more than almost anything else on this book, the response from the fans — in their heartfelt reminiscences of

the *Star Wars* movies, their (mostly) well-reasoned critiques of the comic book, and their admiration and loyalty for George Lucas' creations.

Helping to transform decade-old comic strips into comic books was a task that couldn't have been done without the talent of the artists that helped us literally fill in the creative holes: Al Williamson and Allen Nunis for some truly inspired art retouch (not to mention several panels worth of brand new art!), and the color artists mentioned previously, Steve, Matt, and Ray, for adding the perfect touches of color to help flesh out Al's original artistic vision.

And last, and *certainly* not in the least bit *least*, thanks go to the timeless creative visions of Archie Goodwin and Al Williamson for producing a comic strip that's passed the test of time with flying colors, exciting a new generation of comics fans more than a decade after being originally conceived. Archie and Al have been friends for a long time, and their collaboration on *Star Wars* was, by both men's admissions, one of the most pleasurable experiences of their careers. And to leave you with a better feel for where they came up with some of their inspiration for their creations, we leave you with Exhibit A, the snapshot below — of Archie and Al on a New York City rooftop in 1959, acting out some swashbuckling scene from . . . *something* Al was drawing at the time — revived as a dynamic cover pose for *Classic Star Wars* #20 in 1994!



Archie Goodwin & Al Williamson, 1959

— Bob Cooper



DCP

PRESENTS A
SCAN BY

DARTH SCANNER

*Leeching leads to the Dark Side of the Force.
A good Jedi buys comics and supports the industry!*